

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 9454

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, KE, TZ, US, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES-KENYA RELATIONS

REF: STATE 158800(NOTAL); DAR ES SALAAM 2131

1. SUBJECT OF KENYA-SEYCHELLES RELATIONS DID COME UP IN
MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RENE ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 31.
MATTER WAS RAISED IN CONTEXT OF PRESIDENT RENE'S EXPRESSION
OF DISAPPOINTMENT THAT GOVERNMENT OF KENYA DID NOT RESPOND
TO OFFICIAL CABLE FROM GOS REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT
ALLEGED BOAT AT MOMBASA PORT THAT WAS PURPORTEDLY SET TO
TRANSPORT CERTAIN MERCENARIES FROM KENYA TO SEYCHELLES
AT THE TIME OF THE ABORTIVE COUP. PRESIDENT RENE SAID
ONE WOULD NORMALLY EXPECT A FRIENDLY COUNTRY TO RESPOND
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
SO SENSITIVE A MATTER, BUT HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT RECEIVE
A RESPONSE FROM THE GOK. RENE SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE
THAT CERTAIN MEMBERS OF KENYAN LEADERSHIP HAD CLOSE TIES
TO FORMER SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT MANCHAM AND HIS COLLEAGUES,
BUT AN OFFICIAL REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA
OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN RESPONDED TO. AT THE SAME TIME
RENE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS
WITH KENYA AND HE WAS HAPPY THAT ASSISTANT MINISTER

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OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PETER KENYATTA WAS GOING TO ATTEND
THE NAIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AS THE OFFICIAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KENYA GOVERNMENT.

2. FOLLOWING MY OWN RECITATION TO PRESIDENT RENE OF
WHAT WE FINALLY FOUND OUT AND DIDN'T FIND OUT
(NAIROBI 7013 AND NAIROBI 7605) ABOUT THE CONCENTRATION

OF MERCENARIES IN KENYA AND THE FAMOUS "BOAT AT MOMBASA PORT", I CONFIRMED TO PRESIDENT RENE THAT AS A COUNTRY HAVING VERY GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE SEYCHELLES AND KENYA WE CERTAINLY HOPED THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT HAVE EVERY REASON TO EXIST BETWEEN SEYCHELLES AND KENYA WOULD NOT SUFFER FROM A LACK OR BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. KNOWING BOTH COUNTRIES AS I DO I STATED THAT I WAS CERTAIN THAT NEITHER HARBORED ANY HOSTILITY FOR THE OTHER AND THAT INCREASED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SEYCHELLES AND KENYA WOULD CERTAINLY DISPEL THE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT HAS SLIGHTLY COOLED KENYAN-SEYCHELLES RELATIONS SINCE THE ACCESSION TO POWER OF THE RENE GOVERNMENT AFTER THE COUP OF JUNE 5, 1977. RENE AFFIRMED THAT HE CERTAINLY WAS PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HAVE GOOD RELATION WITH KENYA.

3. IN A RELATED CONVERSATION WITH PETE KENYATTA ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 4 PETER TOLD ME THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD INDEED RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST FROM THE GOS ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT BE PRECISE ABOUT WHEN THE CABLE WAS SENT OR ABOUT ITS CONTENTS. PETER TOO WENT ON TO STATE HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOS AND WE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT THE NEED AND POTENTIAL FOR KENYA TO EXPAND ITS EXPORTS TO SEYCHELLES. PETER CONCLUDED OUR CONVERSATION WITH A REQUEST FOR ME TO ASSIST IN

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PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONS KENYA AND THE SEYCHELLES AND HELP DISPEL ANY SUSPCIONS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT THE SEYCHELLES LEADERSHIP MIGHT HAVE ABOUT KENYA'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE SEYCHELLES. I ASSURED HIM THAT I WAS COMMITTED TO PROMOTING THE BEST OF RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND THE SEYCHELLES AND WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN FURTHERING MUTUAL TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE.

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